

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01    PARAMA 01189 302010Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 DLOS-09 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01  
/104 W

-----026251 302020Z /62

P R 301615Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4596  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 1189

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, EFIS, PBOR, NS, GY  
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF SEIZED FISHING VESSELS MARKS FURTHER  
IMPROVEMENT IN GUYANA-SURINAME RELATIONS

REF A) PARAMARIBO 839, B) PARAMARIBO 964, C) PARAMARIBO 1152

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON AUGUST 29 PRIME MINISTER HENCK  
ARRON CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THAT GUYANA AND  
SURINAME HAVE AGREED TO RELEASE SEIZED FISHING VESSELS AND  
TAKE OTHER MEASURES, WHICH MARK A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN  
GUYANA-SURINAME RELATIONS. ARRON ANNOUNCED THAT:

-- GUYANA IS RETURNING TO SURINAME THE SUGAM-26 VESSEL  
IT SEIZED LAST YEAR. (A SURINAMESE CREW ARRIVED IN  
GEORGETOWN ON AUGUST 27 TO RETURN IT TO SURINAME.)  
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-- SURINAME IS RETURNING TO GUYANA THREE FISHING VESSELS  
WHICH IT SEIZED AND WAS HOLDING IN CORONIE.

-- SURINAME IS ISSUING LICENSES FOR ONE YEAR TO THREE  
GUYANESE FOR FISHING IN THE CORANTIJN RIVER.

-- NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FISHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BEGIN SOON. (SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN MORE LICENSES FOR GUYANESE TO FISH IN THE CORANTIJN.)

--ARRON AND PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM WILL MEET BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR (VENUE NOT DISCLOSED).

2. IN ANSWER TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION, ARRON STATED THAT THE RECENT VISIT OF GUYANESE OPPOSITION LEADER JAGAN (PARAMARIBO 1152) PLAYED NO ROLE IN THE AGREEMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED GUYANESE CHARGE PHILIP CHAN FOR HIS REACTION. CHAN IS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THESE MEASURES, WHICH HE INDICATED WERE AGREED TO BETWEEN ARRON, DIRECTOR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HEINEMANN, AND HIM IN PARAMARIBO FOLLOWING THE MEETING IN BRASILIA IN EARLY JULY BETWEEN ARRON AND GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SOME HARD BARGAINING HERE BEFORE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. HE THOUGHT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FISHING AGREEMENT WOULD COMMENCE SOON, PROBABLY IN GEORGETOWN. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE ARRON-BURNHAM MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN GUYANA-SURINAME RELATIONS AND STANDS IN MARKED CONTRAST  
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TO THE ACRIMONY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES EARLIER THIS YEAR. WITH TENSIONS LOWERED, PERHAPS DISCUSSIONS CAN BEGIN LATER, PRESUMABLY AFTER A FISHING AGREEMENT IS REACHED, ON A RESOLUTION OF THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT PROSPECTS HAVE BEEN ENHANCED FOR GUYANESE CONSENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HYDROELECTRIC DAM ON THE KABALEBO RIVER ( A TRIBUTARY OF THE CORANTIJN) IN SURINAME, WHICH IS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THE WORLD BANK'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FINANCING OF THE PROJECT. DOMESTICALLY, ARRON HAS ENHANCED HIS PRESTIGE; EVEN THE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION REACTED FAVORABLY TO HIS ANNOUNCEMENT.  
END CONFIDENTIAL  
OSTRANDER

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FISHING BOATS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 PARAMARIBO 839, 78 PARAMARIBO 964, 78 PARAMARIBO 1152  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** RELEASE OF SEIZED FISHING VESSELS MARKS FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN GUYANA-SURINAME RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, EFIS, PBOR, NS, GY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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